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War Appraisal to Start In Congress Monday

By the Associated Press

The new Congress opens its scrutiny of the Vietnam war Monday with a Senate committee scheduled to get a top-secret appraisal from the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Intelligence chief Richard Helms' briefing of Sen. Richard B. Russell's special CIA subcommittee Monday — the day before Congress convenes — is expected to include the agency's evaluation of the impact of U.S. bombing on North Vietnam.

The CIA has been reported as skeptical of whether the air attacks are damaging Hanoi's will to continue the war.

Success Questioned

Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., a member of the Senate CIA panel, said yesterday the present scale of bombing had not been an "outstanding success" in preventing the infiltration of North Vietnamese troops.

The Senate leaders — Democrat Mike Mansfield and Republican Everett M. Dirksen — didn't agree in separate pre-session interviews on whether peace talks appeared any nearer.

Mansfield expressed belief that "the opening has been en-

larged" for possible negotiations through U.S. efforts at the United Nations.

But Dirksen said there has been "no hard evidence and no firm clues" that Hanoi wants to negotiate.

Hot Subject

They agreed on one thing: The war will be a hot subject of debate in the 90th Congress.

Helms' annual briefing of the Senate's CIA panel was expected to be the start of a parade of officials to present aspects of administration Vietnam policy on Capitol Hill.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has dates with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a closed session Jan. 16 and a public hearing Jan. 23.

The committee also has asked Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to testify.

Two senior members of the committee, Sen. John Sparkman, D-Ala., and Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, R-Iowa, expressed doubt the debate will be as heated this year as last.

They contended in interviews that because there has been no Communist response to U.S. peace overtures this year, the steam had been taken out of "doves" arguments.